

calendaring means for reducing the thickness and increasing the length of said strip of cleaning fabric on said shaft;

[(b)] solvent applying means for applying a low volatility, organic compound solvent which does not readily evaporate at ambient pressure and temperature to said strip of cleaning fabric; and

[(c)] means for forming a cleaning fabric supply roll, wherein the diameter of the cleaning fabric supply roll is not substantially increased when the calendaring means reduces the thickness and increases the length of the strip of cleaning fabric on the shaft.

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 44-50 are currently pending in the application. Claims 44-45 have been withdrawn from consideration. By the present amendment, claim 46 has been amended and claim 47 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 46-47 and 49-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Triolo (U.S. 4,086,387) in view of Wagg (U.S. 564,353). Claims 46 and 48-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagg in view of Millington (U.S. 825,744).

Claim 46 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 47. Particularly, claim 46 has been amended to include calendaring means for reducing the thickness and increasing

the length of the strip of cleaning fabric on the shaft without substantially increasing the diameter of the cleaning fabric supply roll.

Applicants' specification discloses that a "surprising and unexpected result" of calendaring is that the length of fabric is increased while not increasing the diameter of the cleaning fabric supply roll. The specification also discloses that, depending on the type of fabric and amount of calendaring, the length may range from about a 10% increase to about a 50% increase. See Specification at p. 26, lines 24-26.

This provides an important advantage because cleaners are designed to accept fabric rolls of up to a certain diameter. For example, one of the assignor's automatic blanket cleaners will only accept a cleaning fabric roll having a diameter of about 2.75 inches. Because of this extra length, a fabric roll of calenderized cloth will be usable for more washes than a regular fabric roll of the same fabric having the same diameter. This has two advantages. First, the cost per wash will be reduced. Second, the pressmen need not change a roll of cleaning fabric as often since there are more washes per roll of cloth. This will allow for the press to be run more often. These advantages can be realized regardless of whether the fabric is presoaked and/or pre-packaged. See Specification at p. 25, lns. 23-26 to p. 26, lns. 1-12.

Applicants respectfully submit that Triolo fails to disclose or suggest calendaring means for reducing the thickness and increasing the length of the cleaning fabric without substantially increasing the diameter of the cleaning fabric supply roll. Rather, Triolo discloses a substrate (preferably a flexible foam sheet material) that "leaves the nip of heated compression rollers 26 and 28 and regains substantially all of its original thickness due to the release of the compressive forces." Triolo, col. 4, lines 58-61. Thus, the "thickness" of the flexible foam sheet material of Triolo has the ability to bounce back after being compressed. Since the original

thickness of the substrate is regained after passing through the compression rollers and if the length of the cleaning fabric increases as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action (not admitted), compression rollers 26 and 28 are not calendaring means for reducing the thickness and increasing the length of the strip of cleaning fabric on the shaft without substantially increasing the diameter of the cleaning fabric supply roll as recited in amended claim 46. Further, Applicants respectfully submits that the other references of record fail to disclose the device for soaking a strip of cleaning fabric on site as recited in amended claim 46.

Claims 48-50 depend from claim 46 and are patentable for the same reasons set forth above for independent claim 46. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground for rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In light of the above Amendments and Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If any issues remain, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. The Examiner's favorable consideration is greatly appreciated.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No.0140-4126US1.

In the event that an extension of time is required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension

of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee

for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit

Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 0140-4126US3. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT
IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

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